

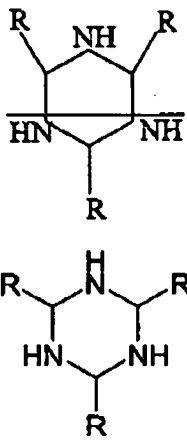
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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

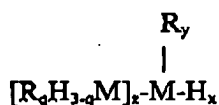
Also useful as ammonia-generating compounds are substituted and unsubstituted triazine derivatives such as those of the formula:



wherein R is a hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl, or aralkyl group having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms. Specific useful triazine derivatives include hexahydro-1,3,5-s-triazine and acetaldehyde ammonia trimer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

The organic compound may also be a compound that corresponds to the formula:



(I)

wherein R represents a hydrocarbon group optionally comprising one or more substituents and wherein the R groups may be the same or different and whereby two R groups may be linked to each other so as to form a ring, M is selected from Si, Ge, Sn and Pb, q is a value of 1 to 3, x is a value of 1 to 3, y and z represent a value of 0 to 3 and the sum of $y+z=4-x$. Examples of substituents that may be present on the hydrocarbon group R include alkoxy, aryloxy, halogens such as chlorine and bromine, nitrile groups, hydroxy groups and amino groups. The backbone

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of the hydrocarbon group may further be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms such as for example oxygen and nitrogen atoms. Typical examples of hydrocarbon groups include saturated or unsaturated linear, branched or cyclic aliphatic groups and aromatic groups. Specific examples are C₁-C₅ alkyl groups, aryl groups having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, arylalkyl and alkylaryl groups having 7 to 14 carbon atoms. Compounds of formula (I) above are known and have been described in for example J. Am. Chem. Soc., 116 (1994), page 4521-4522. Examples include trig(n-butyl)tin hydride, trig(ethyl)silyl hydride, ~~dibis~~(trimethylsilyl)silylmethyl hydride, trig(trimethylsilyl)silyl hydride, trig(phenyl)silyl hydride. Compounds of formula (I) have further been disclosed in EP 761 735.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

A fluoropolymer according to the invention was prepared in the same reaction vessel and under the similar conditions as for Example 1 & 2 with the exception that no APFO[[A]] was used. The vessel was charged with 235 g of PPVE-2 (fed as steam heated aerosol) to a pressure of 0.62 bar absolute, with 204 g CTFE to 1.17 bar absolute, with 4760 g HFP to 10.87 bar absolute, with 456 g VDF to 12.97 bar absolute and with 890 g TFE to 15.50 bar absolute reaction pressure. The polymerization was initiated by the addition of 980 g 30% aqueous ammonium-peroxodisulfate (APS) solution. As the reaction starts, the reaction pressure of 15.5 bar absolute is maintained by the feeding TFE, HFP, CTFE and VDF into the gas phase with a feeding ratio CTFE (kg)/TFE (kg) of 0.209, HFP (kg)/TFE (kg) of 0.846 and VDF (kg)/TFE (kg) of 0.482. During the polymerization, PPVE-2 is additionally fed as heated aerosol with a feeding a feeding rate 50 g/h. The reaction temperature of 71°C is also maintained. After feeding 10.5 (kg) TFE, a liquid dispersion sample was taken from the reactor and 85 g of ethane chain transfer agent is charged into the vessel which results in a substantial decrease of the polymerization rate. The polymerization is continued until the feeding of 21.0 kg TFE is completed after 4 h and 35 min total polymerization time. After the monomer valves are closed, the monomer gas phase is reacted down to a vessel pressure of 11.6 bar within 15 min. The reactor is vented and flushed with N₂ in three cycles.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

1000 ml of this polymer dispersion was coagulated by adding it drop-wise to an aqueous MgCl_2 solution with agitation, after which it was de-watered and washed three times with deionized water (60-70°C). The polymer was dried overnight at 130°C in an air circulating oven. The polymer shows a slight melting transition at 67°C and a heat of fusion of 0.7 J/g. The polymer has a MFI(265/5) of ~~105 g/10 min~~ 105 g/10 min.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

The so obtained 169 kg polymer dispersion had a solid content of 31%. The latex particle diameter was 146 nm according to dynamic light scattering. The fluoropolymer had the following composition 7.2 mol% CTFE, 22.6 mol% HFP, 30.2mol % VDF and 40 mole% TFE. The fluorine content was 72.4 wt% and the total halogen content was 73.1 wt%. The polymer workup was conducted analogous to Example 1, the polymer showed a very slight melting transition at 49°C and a heat of fusion of 0.3 J/g. The polymer had a MFI(265/5) of ~~189 g/10 min~~ 189 g/10 min. The mass average molecular weight is $M_w = 49,700$ g/mol according to size exclusion chromatography, the molecular weight distribution appears symmetrical with a polydispersity of $M_w/M_n = 1.6$.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The so obtained 168 kg polymer dispersion had a solid content of 31%, the following polymer workup was conducted analogous to Example 1. The fluoropolymer had the following composition: 7.2 mol% CTFE, 39.9 mol% TFE, 30.2 mol% VDF, 22.6 mol% HFP and 0.1 mol% PPVE-2. The fluorine content was 72.2 wt% and the total halogen content was 73.1 wt%. The polymer shows a slight melting transition at 88°C and a heat of fusion of 0.8 J/g. The polymer has a MFI(265/5) of ~~188 g/10 min~~ 188 g/10 min. The mass average molecular weight is $M_w = 50,500$ g/mol according to size exclusion chromatography, the molecular weight distribution appears asymmetrical with a high molecular weight tailing and a polydispersity of $M_w/M_n = 3.1$. The

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dispersion sample that was taken at 10.5 kg TFE feed was worked up under equivalent conditions, this sample had a MFI of ~~18.8 g/10'~~ 18.8 g/10 min.

Please replace Table 2, beginning on page 19, line 18, with the following amended Table 2:

Table 2

| | Example 1 (comparative) | Example 2 | Example 3 |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| MFI(265/5), raw gum-[g/10'] [g/10 min] | 105 | 189 | 188 |
| Curing properties (MDR, 0.5°@177°C) | | | |
| Minimum torque, ML [in/lbs] | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.9 |
| Maximum torque, MH [in/lbs] | 8.9 | 16.4 | 11.4 |
| Ts2 [minutes] | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.3 |
| t'50 [minutes] | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| t'90 [minutes] | 5.5 | 3.3 | 4.5 |
| Physical properties of press cured sheet | | | |
| Hardness (Durometer, shore A) | 85 | 82 | 87 |
| Tensile strength [psi] | 1435 | 1725 | 1630 |
| Elongation [%] | 250 | 235 | 214 |
| 100% Modulus [psi] | 975 | 800 | 1055 |
| Permeation, CM15@40°C [g·mm/m ² ·d] | 12.4 | 11.8 | 12.7 |